



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-4450)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III and Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg

Excused: Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (15-4451)

Call to Order. (15-4323)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Self-introductions were made by all in attendance.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- 1. Approval of the September 9, 2015 Minutes.** (15-4324)

This item was continued to the September 23, 2015 meeting without discussion.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (15-4325)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of August 2015:

There were a total of 20 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls:

- **18 Youth callers**
- **2 Adult callers**

There were two Outreach visits

- **Mary's Shelter**

She concluded by reporting that Bayfront Youth and Family Services group home remains on hold.

3. Internal Services Department (ISD). (15-4327)

There was no representative present to report.

4. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (15-4328)

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported the DMH does not have a contract with every group home within Los Angeles County. She also reported the DMH is aware of the situation with Bayfront Youth and Family Services group home and concluded by reporting that DMH is in contact with Department of Children Family Services and the Probation Department and they are monitoring the situation and outcome of the investigation.

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (15-4326)

Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of August 2015 there were a total of 738 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 38 referrals in the following categories:

There were 38 hotline referrals during the month of August 2015

- **1 Emotional Abuse**
- **7 General Neglect**
- **17 Sexual Abuse**
- **13 Physical Abuse**

During the same reporting period 34 referrals were closed in the following categories:

- **2 Emotional Abuse**
- **11 General Neglect**
- **13 Physical Abuse**
- **7 Sexual Abuse**
- **1 Caretaker Absent**

During the same reporting period 34 referrals were closed for the following reasons:

- **11 Inconclusive**
- **9 Evaluated Out**
- **12 Unfounded**
- **1 Substantiated**
- **1 Out-of-County (Licensed foster home)**

She concluded by reporting that the Delian Lucile Corporation's Delilu emergency shelter placement site was placed on an investigative hold.

6. Probation Department (PD). (15-4329)

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Camp Gonzales and Dorothy Kirby Center, reported that two of the buildings at the Dorothy Kirby has been renovated and painted. The Kirby center held a prom in August 2015 and it was a success and plans to have a talent show in the next few months. He also reported that 18 youth received college credits for classes taken at Los Angeles Trade Technical College and three youth took online courses at Los Angeles Mission College.

7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (15-4330)

Commander Ralph Ornelas, Custody Services Division, SD, reported that today will be the last time he attends the Sybil Brand Commission meeting because he has announced his retirement from the Sheriff's Department, effective January 29, 2016. He has served the SD for 36 years and will be taking some time off before his retirement. A retirement reception is scheduled for February 10, 2015 and invitations will be extended to the SBC Commissioners as time draws near.

Responding to the Commissions questions regarding the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) and Sybil Brand Commission's (SBC) role at the Los Angeles County Men's Central Jail, Commander Ornelas stated that the ACLU's role is to inspect conditions in the jails, interview the inmates to get first-hand information regarding issues of concern, look at issues of overcrowding and investigate any allegations of abuse. As a result, leadership has improved, policies have been implemented and various programs for inmates have been implemented.

He also stated that the SBC's role is to serve as the eyes and ears of the Board of Supervisors and report its findings to the BOS as well as to the Sheriff's Department representatives during SBC's monthly Business meetings.

Commander Ornelas concluded by stating that it has been a pleasure collaborating with SBC over the past few years.

III. DISCUSSION

8. Discussion and general overview of the duties of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Juvenile Institutions Bureaus.

- Sharon Harada, Bureau Chief, Detention Services Bureau, Juvenile Hall
- Luis Dominguez, Bureau Chief, Residential Treatment Services Bureau, Probation Camps (15-4306)

Ms. Felicia Cotton, Deputy Chief for Juvenile Institutions, Probation Department, provided handouts and reported that the probation recently satisfied settlements with the ACLU and the Department of Justice. Out of that collaboration the PD Department has painted several juvenile halls. The current population in Juvenile Camps is 640 youth and 642 in Juvenile Hall. The department believes that the best place for children is in their own home and neighborhoods with their families.

Ms. Cotton then introduced Ms. Sharon Harada as the Bureau Chief of Detention Services Bureau and Juvenile Hall.

Ms. Harada provided a brief overview of PD's Detention Services. She reported that Detention Services employs approximately 1700 staff that includes Juvenile halls and transportation. She also reported that juvenile hall serves as temporary housing for youth and the average length of stay is 17 days and the average intake age of the youth is 16 years and most are reading at a fourth-grade level. She further reported that the youth usually live with their mother or grandparents. Transportation is provided to the youth to go to their court hearings and other appointments.

Ms. Harada concluded by reporting that females make up 15 to 20 percent of the juvenile hall population while males are between 80 to 85 percent of the population. She introduced Mr. Luis Dominguez, Bureau Chief, Residential Treatment Services Bureau, Probation camps, as the next presenter.

Mr. Luis Dominguez reported that there are currently 14 facilities open due to the reduction of the number of youth in probation camps. Thirteen of the facilities are actual camps and the other is a residential treatment center. The youth are rehabilitated through a multi-disciplinary approach, which focus on assessment, stabilization, case planning and management and transition planning. Camps Scott and Scudder are gender specific camps that serve female youth only.

Ms. Cotton, Ms. Harada and Mr. Dominguez responded to questions posed by the Commissioners.

Mr. Dominguez concluded by reporting that the department believes that the most desirable place for a youth to grow is home with a caring family and the intentional and meaningful involvement of the family is foundational to success of the youth being rehabilitated and re-entry into the community.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. COMMISSION REPORTS

9. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-4331)

There was no report presented.

10. Treasurer's Report. (15-4332)

There was no report presented.

11. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-4333)

There was no report presented.

12. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from September 10, 2015 to September 15, 2015. (15-4334)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited

- Fleming and Barnes Diamondale Adolescent #1 (North Anaheim Place, Long Beach, CA) on September 15, 2015.
- Dream Home Care, Inc. #2 (Allington Avenue, Long Beach, CA) on September 11, 2015.

Commissioner Duran, III, visited

- San Gabriel Children's Center (South Enid Avenue, Azusa, CA) on September 15, 2015.

Commissioner Golberg visited

- Aviva Center, Hamburger Home (Camino Palmero, Los Angeles, CA) on September 12, 2015.

Not Home

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited

- Dream Home Care #1 (Gardenia Avenue, Long Beach, CA) on September 14, 2015 and noted that no one was home.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-4336)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-4337)

Ms. Akuyoe Graham, Spirit Awakening Foundation, addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment for the meeting of September 16, 2015. (15-4338)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of September 16, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.